

BOOK NOTICE

CODY, WILLIAM J. 1996. *Flora of the Yukon Territory*. (ISBN 0-660-16406-X, hbk; ISBN 0-660-15898-1, pbk). NRC Research Press, M-55, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6. \$79.95 (U.S.), hbk. \$49.95 (U.S.), pbk. 643 pp.

Canada's Yukon Territory, about the size of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana combined, is a rugged land of mountains (including Canada's highest peak), plateaus, river valleys, and arctic coastal plain. Many botanists have explored and written about the Yukon. The author of this flora has made some 10,000 Yukon collections (probably the most extensive collection of the territory's plants ever assembled and from many previously un- or under-collected areas). Much of Cody's professional life has been spent in pursuit of plants from north of the 60th parallel, with only an occasional excursion into more equable climes. He is eminently qualified to write this opus.

The book is well made and of attractive format. An introduction briefly describes the territory's terrain and vegetation, gives the number of species and genera in each of the Yukon's plant families, and outlines the history of botanical exploration there. Then follow keys to major divisions and families. The main part of the book treats the families in phylogenetic order, with generic descriptions, keys to genera and species (which worked fine for the 20 species I chose as test cases), and well-done generic and specific descriptions. All species are illustrated, the drawings coming mostly from Porsild and Cody's *Vascular Plants of Continental Northwest Territories*. Dot maps show the known Yukon distribution of each species. Completing the book are a glossary, a bibliography, and an index to scientific and common names. A "literature cited" would have been more useful than the "bibliography," most entries of which are not referred to in the main part of the book, thus making difficult a reader's attempts to learn of sources for further reading about the included taxa.

The Yukon flora has 80 families, 339 genera, and 1112 species of vascular plants. Families with more than 100 species (native and introduced) are Poaceae, Cyperaceae, and Asteraceae. These and the rest of the flora are now treated in an up-to-date, well-done, and reasonably priced work. Kudos to Cody.—*John W. Thieret*.